



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Production Update

Fiscal Year 2008, 2nd Quarter



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Prepared for the United States Congress

2008
2nd Quarter

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Chairman, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration,
Citizenship, Refugee, Border Security and
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The Honorable Steve King
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration,
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The Honorable Robert Byrd
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
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The Honorable Patrick Leahy
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The Honorable Arlen Specter
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The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration, Border
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The Honorable John Cornyn
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The Honorable David Obey
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
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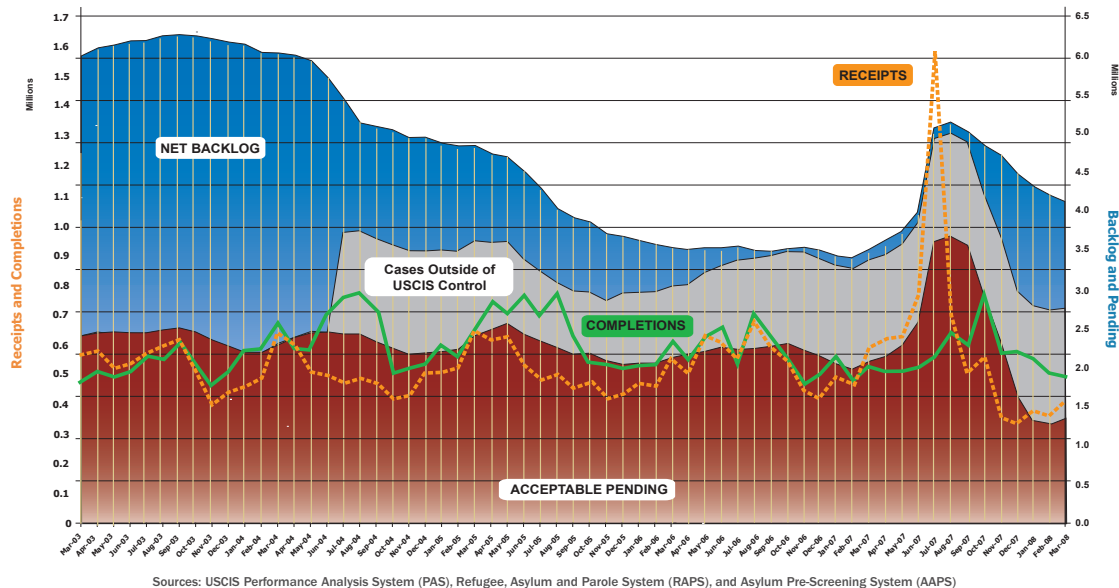
The Honorable David Price
Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security,
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Homeland
Security, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman, House Committee on Homeland
Security

The Honorable Peter King
Ranking Member, House Committee on Homeland
Security

Receipts, Completions, Pending and Backlog: All USCIS Forms



Developments

As the second quarter concluded, the net backlog decreased by 156,722 cases, and currently stands at 1,370,677 cases. This represented a 10% decrease from the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2008. Second quarter FY 2008 production decreased from the previous quarter by 20%. The net backlog now stands at 33% of pending cases. During the second quarter receipts decreased by 9% as compared to the preceding quarter. The gross backlog decreased from 2,802,250 to 2,711,693 cases.

Agency Update

The unprecedented number of immigration applications and petitions received during the fourth quarter of 2007 necessitated that USCIS develop an action plan to enable a timely and proactive response. Accordingly, a Surge Response Plan was developed providing an operational blueprint for how USCIS will respond to the increase in workload. The key elements of the response plan include a production analysis and a staffing plan. Together these two elements provide

specific production and staffing targets for each USCIS office that, upon successful completion, will ensure established processing time goals are achieved. Significant progress has been made towards the hiring and training of new staff authorized in the FY 2008 Budget and through the Surge Response Plan. Through the end of the second quarter, USCIS has increased its on-board Adjudication Officer staff by 302 as compared to the level on-board at the end of the first quarter. Since the beginning of FY 2008, USCIS has increased its overall Adjudication Officer workforce by 685 employees. Through the end of the second quarter, USCIS has successfully trained and graduated 165 Adjudication Officers from its new BASIC training program. Since the beginning of FY 2008, USCIS has trained and graduated a total of 386 Adjudication Officers with many more currently in training or scheduled to attend training. All employees who have completed the BASIC training have returned to their official duty stations and are providing significant contributions towards the achievement of their office's production targets.

FY 2008 Second Quarter Production Data

Form	Receipts	Completions	Pending	Previous End of Quarter Pending	Net Backlog ¹	Gross Backlog	Previous End of Quarter Net Backlog ¹	Previous End of Quarter Gross Backlog	Net Backlog as % of Pending
N-400	142,241	239,481	958,663	1,061,189	556,863	747,067	716,550	913,673	58%
I-485 Regular	95,812	175,039	642,976	705,635	435,403	518,023	413,049	559,021	68%
I-485 Indochinese	9	96	262	290	240	248	245	250	92%
I-485 Asylee	10,078	20,833	61,795	70,088	45,709	48,894	53,453	57,638	74%
I-485 Refugee	11,630	7,223	57,905	55,018	42,558	43,224	42,550	43,105	73%
I-130	132,257	161,623	1,387,045	1,392,258	88,161	1,130,936	78,383	987,034	6%
I-90	131,370	137,628	162,991	173,158	-	-	-	-	0%
I-129	74,142	76,240	51,876	44,033	-	1,562	-	1,253	0%
I-131 Adv/Pri	45,248	92,952	33,471	71,467	-	-	26,761	27,491	0%
I-131 RP/RTD	29,951	24,980	78,261	72,945	44,659	48,310	43,440	44,913	57%
I-140	29,633	31,768	146,092	147,923	99,105	106,345	102,572	108,692	68%
I-539	45,720	46,616	56,337	56,487	7,556	10,617	5,522	7,243	13%
I-751	60,778	34,834	118,937	99,653	7,794	8,677	14,039	14,810	7%
I-765	218,543	288,315	158,565	220,679	-	-	-	-	0%
I-821	2,557	77,892	17,584	95,221	-	-	-	-	0%
N-600/N-643	14,520	20,020	39,164	43,672	13,423	13,556	-	-	34%
I-589	6,430	12,377	20,097	24,546	-	-	-	-	0%
I-881	1,139	2,598	4,239	5,334	-	-	-	-	0%
I-867	1,213	1,169	161	74	-	-	-	-	0%
I-102	4,535	4,453	4,604	4,247	-	69	-	252	0%
I-129F	15,855	17,032	25,022	26,189	-	-	-	445	0%
I-360	4,056	4,431	11,885	11,739	1,058	3,895	677	3,515	9%
I-526	221	224	523	521	-	34	-	-	0%
I-600/600A	6,295	7,137	7,785	7,001	1,490	1,490	1,150	1,159	19%
I687/690/695/698/700 Legalization/SAW	589	2,377	4,070	5,650	2,259	2,274	2,764	2,800	56%
I-730	4,914	5,618	26,799	26,614	16,227	17,082	15,808	16,550	61%
I-817	721	982	2,127	1,774	618	863	-	179	29%
I-824	6,141	5,826	11,564	11,137	-	-	-	-	0%
I-829	51	35	351	333	237	239	208	209	68%
I-914	89	114	181	138	-	-	-	-	0%
I-905	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N-300	12	20	63	70	34	34	11	12	54%
N-336	1,508	1,712	5,979	5,964	2,776	2,776	1,993	1,995	46%
N-470	165	131	400	345	91	91	43	44	23%
N-565	8,551	16,629	15,901	23,851	-	883	4,946	6,635	0%
N-644	-	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	33%
N-648	2,207	3,327	2,987	2,772	-	-	-	-	0%
Immigrant Visas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EOIR Adjustment Processing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Waivers	3,298	4,355	10,566	10,315	4,405	4,503	3,224	3,331	42%
Total	1,112,479	1,526,089	4,127,231	4,478,333	1,370,667	2,711,693	1,527,389	2,802,250	33%
FY 2007	7,679,423	6,271,024	5,033,854		105,793				2%
FY 2006	6,302,956	6,855,771	3,485,706		49,031				1%
FY 2005	6,279,199	7,603,900	3,921,974		951,559				24%
FY 2004	5,982,489	7,303,321	5,083,628		1,438,795				28%

¹ In general, backlog will fluctuate depending on how current completions for each application type fare against cases received six months prior. In addition inventory adjustments and the availability of visas have an effect on backlog.

Quality Assurance

During the second quarter of FY 2008, USCIS achieved a 99.8% accuracy rate for naturalization applications and a 99.5% accuracy rate for adjustment of status applications. Both rates exceed the minimum acceptable accuracy rate of 99%. In all applications where an error was identified, USCIS implemented corrective actions to prevent future problems.

Production Management

Receipts: Second quarter receipts were lower by 104,698 compared to the preceding quarter. USCIS expected 1,487,962 receipts for the second quarter, but only received 1,112,479 receipts. This amounted to only 75% of the expected receipts. Receipts for Form N-400 exhibited a quarterly increase of 38,889 cases, or nearly 38%. Only 142,241 N-400 cases were receipted in the second quarter, falling short of the quarterly expectation of 195,051 receipts. Form I-485 Regular/Adjustment of Status had an 8% decrease in the second quarter. The number of I-485 Regular/Adjustment of Status cases received was 24% lower than the 125,840 cases expected. The continued decrease in receipts for Form I-485 was due to the visas for all Employment Based filings being made current during the fourth quarter of FY 2007. This decrease has perpetuated for two quarters. Form I-821 had a substantial decrease in its level of receipts, posting a 97% quarterly decrease. Form I-765 had a decrease in its receipts, posting a 60,510 quarterly decrease by the end of the second quarter.

Completions: USCIS completed 1,526,089 applications, lower than the previous quarter's production by 375,022 cases. The second quarter total completions exceeded total receipts by 412,966 cases. The form type with the largest reduction in completions was the I-765. There were 276,419 fewer cases completed for this form type during the second quarter. We completed more cases this quarter than last quarter of those cases that require the most resources (I-485, I-130, N-400). For Form N-400, we have processed 42% of the annual goal, and have processed 433,904 cases. The agency processed 43%

Cycle Time (in months) FY 2008 to date

Form	Net Cycle Time	Gross Cycle Time	Cycle Time Goal
N-400	9.1	10.5	5
I-485 Regular	8.8	9.4	4
I-485 Indochinese	18.4	18.6	4
I-485 Asylee	13.4	12.7	4
I-485 Refugee	14.6	14.8	4
I-130	6.7	21.5	6
I-90	3.7	3.7	4
I-129	1.9	2.1	2
I-131 Adv/Pri	2.1	2.2	3
I-131 RP/RTD	7.6	7.9	3
I-140	8.9	9.2	4
I-539	3.5	3.7	3
I-751	6.8	6.8	6
I-765	1.9	2.1	3
I-821	5.1	5.1	6
N-600/N-643	7.9	7.9	6
I-589	3.2	4.2	6
I-881	3.1	3.5	6
I-867	0.3	0.3	0.5
I-102	2.8	3.0	3
I-129F	5.0	5.6	6
I-360	6.8	8.9	6
I-526	5.8	6.4	6
I-600/600A	3.7	3.7	3
I-687/690/695/698/700 Legalization/SAW	13.5	13.6	6
I-730	16.0	16.5	6
I-817	8.9	10.1	6
I-824	5.3	5.5	6
I-829	18.7	18.8	6
I-914	3.8	5.8	6
I-905	n/a	n/a	6
N-300	13.0	13.0	6
N-336	11.2	11.2	6
N-470	7.8	7.8	6
N-565	5.5	6.4	6
N-644	9.0	9.0	6
N-648	3.9	3.9	6
Immigrant Visas	0 pending	0 pending	2
EOIR Adjustment Processing	0 pending	0 pending	2
Waivers	10.4	10.5	6

of its Form I-130 annual goal and has processed 320,803 cases. For Form I-485, the agency has processed 56% of its annual goal, processing 335,835 cases.

Backlog: The USCIS net backlog decreased from the first quarter by 156,722 cases, to stand at 1,370,667 for all form types. At the end of the second quarter of FY 2008, the gross backlog, including cases outside of USCIS's control, was 2,711,693 cases, of which 2,677,459 were for forms tracked in the Backlog Elimination Plan (BEP). The largest net backlog

resides in Form N-400, at 556,863 cases followed by Form I-485 Regular at 435,403 cases. These two form types comprise 72% of the USCIS net backlog. The largest contributing factor to the change in the N-400 backlog was attributed to the increased completions with regards to the number of receipts falling out of acceptable pending. Form I-130 experienced an increase in its backlog, posting a quarterly increase of 9,778 cases. The net backlog now stands at 33% of the overall pending cases. Operational capacity increases and performance improvements are being phased-in during FY 2008 through our Surge Response Plan in anticipation of a redeveloped backlog during FY 2008.

Analysis

N-400 Regular: N-400 Regular receipts increased by 38% in the second quarter of FY 2008, compared to the preceding quarter. Completions during the second quarter were 23% above the previous quarter's production.

I-485 Regular: Form I-485 Regular completions were 9% higher in the second quarter of FY 2008 compared to the first quarter of FY 2008. Receipts received during the second quarter of FY 2008 were 8% lower than the same period in the first quarter of FY 2008. The net backlog for this group of forms stands at 435,403 cases.

I-821: The level of receipts for Form I-821 are cyclical as the receipts are directly correlated to the various countries that are designated for Temporary Protected Status. As re-registration periods open and close, the level of receipts are affected. The level of receipts decreased during the second quarter as a re-registration period was closed. There were 2,557 Form I-821 cases received during the second quarter, as compared to 78,496 cases received during the previous quarter.

Glossary

Acceptable Pending: The number of cases USCIS calculates to have pending at any given time in order to reach production goals. The acceptable pending is derived by totaling the monthly receipts for the number of months USCIS has determined for a cycle time goal. For example, USCIS in its July 2007 Fee Rule, established its processing goal for major form types at 6 months or less. Therefore, the acceptable pending would equal to six months or less for most form types.

Active Case Management: In an effort to better manage its production and allocate its resources in an efficient manner, USCIS has implemented "Active Case Management" (ACM). Pursuant to ACM, cases that do not have an available visa or an FBI name check, and cases that are in suspense for other reasons deemed beyond USCIS's control have been taken out of the production queue. This allows USCIS to focus its attention on those cases that stand ready for adjudication. Cases held in suspense have been discounted from the net backlog computation to better reflect the number of cases that are within the agency's control.

Completions: Refers to the number of cases that are approved or denied during the reporting period.

Cycle Time: Refers to the number of months of receipts that equal the current level of pending cases. For example, if the current pending level of a particular form type is 30 cases, and 10 cases were receipted for each of the past three months (30 receipts), your cycle time would be three months for this form type.

End Pending: The total number of cases on-hand at the end of the period that require a final adjudicative action.

Gross Backlog: The total number of cases pending that exceed the total acceptable pending (Gross Backlog = Total Pending – Acceptable Pending). If the remainder is equal to or less than zero, no backlog exists.

Net Backlog: The number of cases pending once cases that cannot be adjudicated due to reasons outside USCIS' control (ex. FBI name check; visa regression) are deducted from the gross backlog the true number of cases needing action (Gross Backlog – deductible cases = Net Backlog).

Receipts: The number of new cases receipted during the reporting period.

USCIS Forms

CIS Form No.	CIS Form Description
I-17	Petition for Approval of School for Attendance by Nonimmigrant Students
I-90	Replace Permanent Resident Card
I-102	Replacement/Initial Nonimmigrant Arrival-Departure Document
I-129	Nonimmigrant Worker
I-129F	Alien Fiance(e)
I-130 Other Relative	Alien Relative
I-130 Spouse	Alien Relative
I-131	Application for Travel Document
I-140	Petition for Alien Worker
I-175/I-190 BCC	Border Crossing Card
I-193	Waiver for Passport and/or Visa
I-360	Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant
I-485	Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status
I-526	Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur
I-539	To Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status
I-589	Asylum and Withholding of Removal
I-600	Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative
I-687	Status as a Temporary Resident Under Section 245A of the INA
I-690	Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility Under Sections 245A or 210 of the INA
I-694	Notice of Appeal of Decision Under Sections 245A or 210 of the INA
I-695	Application to Replace Form I688A
I-698	Adjust Status from Temporary to Permanent Resident
I-700	SAW - Seasonal Agricultural Worker
I-730	Refugee/Asylee Relative Petition
I-751	Remove the Conditions of Residence
I-765	Employment Authorization
I-817	Family Unity Benefits
I-821	Temporary Protected Status
I-824	Application for Action on an Approved Application or Petition
I-829	Entrepreneur to Remove Conditions
I-881	Suspension of Deportation or Special Rule Cancellation of Removal
I-905	Permission to Issue Health Care Certification
I-914	T Nonimmigrant Status
N-300	Application to file Declaration of Intention
N-336	Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings
N-400	Application for Naturalization
N-470	Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes
N-565	Application for Replacement Naturalization/Citizenship Document
N-600K	Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate
N-600/N-643	Application for Certificate of Citizenship
N-644	Application for Posthumous Citizenship
N-648	Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions